

Dear Ed,

2/1/74

Sorry not to have had time to respond to your two last, undated mailings, first enclosing ~~undated~~ Boston Phoenix 1/22 on "The FBI's Cointel" (they called it Cointelpro, I think); second clips from Phoenix and Village Voice. Haven't been able to read but they look interesting.

Re what you attribute to your CIA/DOD friend who has survival worries is, by and large, consistent with what I'd expect. Not all.

The use of artists is not unusual. The first OSS shop I was in included Eero Saarinen, Cosgrove and others who were or became prominent artists.

What you describe as "psywar", letting interest be known, is very common. In the private-detective and anti-labor spying businesses it was known as "rough shadowing." It is supposed to intimidate.

In those things you address, I think I can help separate some of what he suspects from that which he knows.

"Oswald not a 'minor' agent." Presumption and I believe exaggerated. I believe minor.

CIA giving "whitewashed" files: SOP. They identified some as cleansed.

"CIA had massive files on assassination." Every spookery must and does.

"Garrison has the wrong 'friend'." This is interesting, indefinite and something I'd like you to try to explore with him. Does he mean Shaw was not? Does he have Ferrie in mind and if so how? Is it that he assumes neither Shaw nor Ferrie were or were the right or main ones, does he have in mind or know of another or others? "Friend" on what connection, sense, function, etc.?

I have a bulging "third man" file, mostly of proofs of existence and official hiding. This hiding extended to editing his picture out of WDSU footage and removing the stills made from it from all WC files. I have descriptions from two who saw him, Charles Steele, Jr., and Jesse Core. He is the only one who fled the Trade Mart operation. Oswald and Steele did not. I do have the WDSU footage that remained after FBI got it after assassination but not until after Ed Planer and Core had reviewed it again on "ovieola. Both confirm. So I know when footage was memory-holed and it was by FBI, not Secret Service. No objection to your telling your friend. Does he mean this "friend?" The description is consistent with that of the man who had the leaflet printed by Jones, or at least the one who picked it up, the more precise formulation.

I have many other leads, partial descriptions of other possible "friends," one of the more interesting of whom is Mexican and in one description a newsman. So, if he has any knowledge, your friend can be helpful.

Your suspicions of Turner: one basis is his never having come up with anything of his own, another is that whatever he has been associated with has been hurtful. Because he is a pro, these things are enough for suspicion. Do you have his Saga piece? I know of it.

In the letter that came yesterday you refer to "The Hunt-'Arab' links." I'm rather tired for so early in the a.m. so what you mean is not immediately clear. Can you please explain this?

If the Romero book is not available in England then the Manchester Guardian review is fascinating! Your presumptions are valid. Is it possible to get a copy of Martin Walker's "review?" I know of the reference in the Boston underground paper only.

Russell story to Texas Observer: this would be ego-trapping. Getting something in the minor press does not often serve a useful purpose. It is better to keep for possible future and major use. It is a significant story that Texas Observer use would kill.

Can you clarify this: "On Buckley Rusk mentioned Russell was not satisfied but said he was convinced that no foreign (your emph.) government was behind Oswald." I take it that Rusk was on Buckley's show. But how does he know what Russell believed? Especially what there is no reason to believe that Russell did believe? Russell was seriously troubled by what he regarded as official deception and withholding of information about Oswald. He told me this and he was specific enough. He believed Oswald was a True Red.

If your friend is willing, it is possible for him to be quite helpful, assuming he has some factual basis for what he has told you. Even bits and pieces of information can be quite helpful to me. I did gather extensive information in N.O. that JG did not look for and that I did not give him, plus valuable info. in Dallas. Thanks and best,